

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00

OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 CEQ-01 EPA-04 DOTE-00 HUD-02

HEW-06 STR-04 INT-05 AGR-10 /142 W

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P 041911Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 7373

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 14383

PASS: OES FOR GLASOE, EPA FOR PORTER, MILLER, CEQ,
COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: MEETING OF CHEMICAL
SECTOR GROUP, MAY 29-30, 1975. SUMMARY REPORT.

REF: NR/ENV/75.16 - DRAFT AGENDA

1. SUMMARY. MAJOR ITEMS: (A) INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF
METHODS FOR ASSESSING POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS,
(B) REGULATIONS RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS,
(C) NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS OF RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL
DEVELOPMENTS, (D) FREONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT, (E) FUTURE
ORIENTATION OF PROGRAM. US WAS REPRESENTED BY LOWELL
MILLER EPA (VICE-CHAIRMAN). NEXT MEETING, DECEMBER
10-12 1975. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF ASSESSMENT METHODS. THE
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATORS FOR THIS MAJOR PROJECT MET ON
MAY 28, AND DECIDED TO (A) MAINTAIN THE QUESTIONNAIRES
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AS THEY ARE, DESPITE SHORTCOMINGS. NATIONAL COORDINATORS

WILL BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRES, BY PERSONAL VISIT IF NECESSARY, TO CLARIFY ANY DOUBTFUL POINTS RAISED BY RECIPIENTS, (B) ACCELERATE PROGRESS, REQUIRING NATIONAL SUBMISSION BY JUNE 30, THEME TO INTERNATIONAL COORDINATORS BY SEPTEMBER 1. THE LATTER WILL MEET OCTOBER 9 TO FORMAT A JOINT DRAFT REPORT, FOR PRESENTATION TO CHEMICAL SECTOR GROUP AT DECEMBER 10-12 MEETING. ABOVE PROCEDURE WAS APPROVED BY SECTOR GROUP.

3. REGULATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS, NR/ENV/75.2. MEMBER-COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED INFORMATION (THIS INCLUDES US) ARE REQUESTED TO DO SO SOONEST. SECRETARIAT WILL REVISE NR/ENV/75.2 ACCORDINGLY, AND PREPARE BACKGROUND REPORT ON LEGAL SITUATION FOR DECEMBER 10-12 MEETING.

4. NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS. NR/ENV/75.17 AND COMMITTEE ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 3. THE US, WITH CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT, EXPRESSED A DESIRE THAT THE INFORMAL EXCHANGE ON NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS BE NOT ONLY MAINTAINED, BUT ALSO AMPLIFIED TO SERVE MEMBER-COUNTRY OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING TIMELY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING FOREIGN ACTION ON SPECIFIC CHEMICALS. MEMBER-COUNTRIES WERE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION TO UPDATE AND EXPAND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS ALREADY RECEIVED.

5. FREONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS SUBJECT WAS INTRODUCED BY THE CANADIAN MEMBER, WHOSE CONCERN WAS STRONGLY ECHOED BY THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES, NOTABLY GERMANY, FRANCE, AND THE NETHERLANDS. DOUBT WAS EXPRESSED BY THE SECRETARIAT THAT THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WOULD FIND TIME TO DISCUSS THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE AT ITS JUNE MEETING, AS THERE IS NO SPECIFIC ITEM ON ITS AGENDA. NEVERTHELESS UNDER PRESSURE FROM MEMBERS, THE SECRETARIAT AGREED TO TRANSMIT A REVISED VERSION OF THE CANADIAN BACKGROUND PAPER TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, WITH A COVERING NOTE UNDERSCORING THE NEED FOR EARLY ATTENTION TO A SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF CONSIDERABLE URGENCY, WHERE OECD ACTION - AS FOR PCBS - WOULD BE SALUTORY. MISSION UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT DISCUSS MATTER WITH CANADIAN AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO JUNE 11-13 MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE POSITIONS AND LINE OF ACTION. MISSION FEELS THAT CANADIAN PAPER MAY NOT APPEAR OFFICIALLY IN TIME FOR JUNE 11-13 MEETING. THEREFORE, US SHOULD PRESS, OR SUPPORT CANADA IN PRESSING, FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SECRETARIAT TO EXPLORE FREON SITUATION IN MEMBER-COUNTRIES AS PRELIMINARY TO FULL

DISCUSSION AT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S NOVEMBER 1975
MEETING.

6. FUTURE ORIENTATION OF PROGRAM, ENV(75)20. DIS-
CUSSION OF THE FUTURE PROGRAM WAS INTRODUCED BY DEPUTY-
DIRECTOR PRUD'HOMME, WHO STATED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE WAS ANXIOUS TO (A) HAVE MORE DIRECT CONTROL

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OF THE SECTOR GROUP PROGRAMS' WITH APPROVAL OF PROJECTS
OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT ONE YEAR FROM THE TIME OF THEIR
PROPOSAL, (B) LIMIT THE CREATION OF SUB-GROUPS IN
ORDER TO AVOID COSTLY PROLIFERATION OF PROGRAM
ACTIVITIES. TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE SECRETARIAT
PROPOSED A SO-CALLED "PROJECT" APPROACH, BASED ON
DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH 1975 MEETING OF THE ENVIRON-
MENT COMMITTEE, AND ON MEMBER-COUNTRY WORKING PAPERS
SUBMITTED AT THAT TIME, AND SUBSEQUENTLY. PRUD'HOMME'S
STATEMENT PRODUCED AN IMMEDIATE REACTION BY THE
SECTOR GROUP. FOR THE US, MILLER EMPHASIZED THE

NEED FOR GIVING THE CHEMICAL SECTOR GROUP THE
RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR CARRYING OUT A PROGRAM GROWING
IN SIZE AND IMPORTANCE. HE QUESTIONED THE EFFICIENCY
OF A "PROJECT" PROCEDURE THAT WOULD ENTAIL DELAYING
ACTION ON URGENT MATTERS - SUCH AS THE FREON ISSUE -
FOR ABOUT A YEAR. VERY STRONG SUPPORT WAS
VOICED BY THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION, (WHO CHALLENGED
PRUD'HOMME TO NAME ONE PROJECT THAT HAD NOT BEEN
APPROVED BY THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE) AND BY THE
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JAPANESE DELEGATION, WHO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS
COUNTRY WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY ACTION THAT WOULD
DECREASE THE ESTABLISHED EFFICIENCY OF THE CHEMICAL
SECTOR GROUP, TO WHICH JAPAN ATTACHED HIGH IMPORTANCE.
THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THESE STATEMENTS,
AND SEVERAL MEMBERS REGISTERED THEIR LACK OF
SYMPATHY WITH DISCUSSIONS OF PROCEDURE AND STRUCTURE
WHILE SO MANY URGENT SUBSTANTIVE TASKS NEEDED THE
ATTENTION OF THE GROUP.

7. NEXT MEETING OF CHEMICAL SECTOR GROUP:
DECEMBER 10-12, 1975.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP14383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0856
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750682/aaaacwrk.tel
Line Count: 197
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NR/ENV/75, 75 6, 75 -
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: MEETING OF CHEMICAL SECTOR GROUP, MAY 29-30, 1975. SUMMARY REPORT.
TAGS: SENV, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006